

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT

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SUBJECT Organization of the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Every four years the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party holds a general party congress; however, only two such meetings have been held thus far, one in 1948 and the last in 1952. Approximately 500 delegates attended the congress which lasted about 15 days.
2. The presiding officer of the congress is the First Secretary of the Party, Enver Hoxha. Proceedings are opened with a general address by the First Secretary in which he reviews the work of the Party since its last general congress and sets forth proposals for future Party programs. At the conclusion of the First Secretary's address, various Party functionaries review the accomplishments in their respective areas of responsibility, pointing out the shortcomings in the execution of the Party program. After all the preliminary speeches are made, the congress proceeds with the election of members of the Central Committee.

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3. The voting procedure for the members of the Central Committee is as follows: On a specified day, names of candidates are submitted for the positions to be filled. The number of candidates always exceeds the number of positions. Lists of the candidates are then prepared and circulated to all delegates at the congress. Voting is done in secret and each delegate strikes out the names of candidates he rejects. Names of new candidates may be added to the list during the voting. However, votes are never split. Leaders of the Party make it clear in their speeches to the rank and file that certain candidates are preferred. This voting procedure is also used in regional Aktivs throughout the country.¹
 4. There are no age, educational or length of membership in the Party requirements to election to the Central Committee. The term of membership is four years (from one Congress to the next), but there is no limit to the number of times that a person may be re-elected. A member of the Central Committee may be removed by the decision of a Plenum of the Central Committee.
 5. The members of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Party are selected by the Central Committee and their names are presented to the congress for approval.
 6. The Central Committee has a Politburo of seven members and a Secretariat of four members. (See Attachment A). Below are the members of the Politburo, in the order of their importance and the area of responsibility:
 - a. Enver Hoxha - general responsibility for all Party activities and specific responsibility for foreign affairs.
 - b. Mehmet Shehu - responsible for the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Control.
 - c. Hysni Kapo - responsible for agriculture and livestock.
 - d. Gogo Nushi - responsible for construction, transport, industry, minerals, finance, commerce and collection.
 - e. Beqir Balluku - responsible for defense.
 - f. Liri Belishova - responsible for education and culture.
 - g. Spiro Koleka - responsible for planning.
 7. The Secretariat has four members: Enver Hoxha, Gogo Nushi, Liri Belishova, and Rita Marko. The Secretariat handles personnel matters, selects government ministers and Party officials in the Qarks and Rreths (districts), reviews the work of the Qark and Rreth committees, and issues regulations concerning organizational matters such as requirements for admission to Party and routine working procedures.
- Qark and Rreth Committees and Organizata Baze
8. An Aktiv of representatives of all the Party organizations in a Qark is held following every Plenum of the Central Committee and every four years prior to the Party Congress. The voting procedure is similar to the one described above (para. 3). The Qark committee selects its Buro which is then approved by the Aktiv. The Qark and Rreth Party officers are elected for a one or two year term.

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9. There is no Secretariat office at the Qark level and the functions of that office are presumably handled by the Buro. (See paragraph 18 below.) The First, Second, Third Secretary and heads of the Professional Union, the Youth Organization, Qark Executive Committee and Internal Affairs Section are always members of the Buro. The Buro also has other members.²
10. The First Secretary has overall responsibility. The Third Secretary is always responsible for agitprop matters. The Second Secretary and one or two other Buro members are concerned with economic matters. The Second Secretary is responsible for the Sections on agriculture and construction and the two Buro members are in charge of economic matters i.e., one member is in charge of finance and commerce and the other is in charge of industry, mines and health. (See Attachment B)
11. If a member of the Buro in the Qark must be replaced, the Secretariat of the Politburo appoints an official called "Part-Org" who serves in the position until the next Qark Aktiv.
12. The Rreth committees and the Organizata Baze hold Aktivs and elect their officers for terms of one or two years. The Aktiv of a Rreth is held after that of a Qark.

Recruitment

13. The regulations concerning recruitment into the Party and the procedure for admitting new members were established by the Central Committee in 1948. The regulations are written so as to favor an increase of members from the laboring classes and reduce the influx of members from bourgeois or intellectual classes.
14. An applicant for membership in the Party must be a government employee (civil servant, employee of a factory, government farm, etc.) for at least one year. Any owner of a private shop or anyone (such as fairly prosperous farmers) who has persons in his employ is not eligible to apply.
15. The applicant must prepare a biography giving full details of his life since his birth. Any statements concerning war service, schooling and positions held, must be supported with documents such as letters from persons with whom he served certifying to his military service, letters from schools he attended and letters from his supervisors in positions he held.
16. An applicant must obtain a statement from Party members supporting his application for membership as follows:
 - a. A laborer must provide one declaration signed by a person who has been a Party member for at least three years and who has known the applicant since childhood.
 - b. An intellectual must provide three declarations signed by Party members who have known him since childhood. One of the three Party members must have joined the Party during the war; the other two must have been members for at least three years.
 - c. An applicant from the laboring class, who served with the Balli Kombetar as an ordinary soldier or who served in the gendarmerie or army of King Zog or in the Italian Army in a subordinate capacity, must provide four declarations. (If the applicant served in any of the above services as a leader or officer he is not eligible to apply).

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One of the declarations must be signed by a Party member who joined the Party in 1941; a Party member who joined the Party during the war; and the other two Party members must know the applicant well and have been in the Party at least three years.

17. Supporting statements submitted with the applicant's application must contain a brief statement including how long the person has known the applicant, and a recommendation that he be made a member of the Party. The applicant then prepares a letter addressed to the Organizata Baze stating that he wishes to join the Party and attaches to this letter his own biographic statement together with the supporting documents.
18. The Buro of the Organizata Baze checks the application and prepares its comments. At a meeting of the entire Organizata Baze membership, the applicant's biography is read and then he is called to appear before the group. All the members of the Organizata Baze may ask him questions on any subject. After several meetings and question periods, voting on the applicant's request is conducted by a show of hands. All the members must vote for or against approving the application. If the applicant is from the laboring classes, the Organizata Baze may immediately make him a candidate member; however the final decision is made by the Buro of the Rreth. The Rreth Buro summons the applicant together with the Secretary of the applicant's Organizata Baze to a meeting where more questions are asked of the applicant. Upon approval by the Rreth Buro, a notification is sent to the Qark Buro. The Qark Buro rarely revokes the decision of the Rreth Buro.
19. Intellectuals under consideration for membership in the Party are divided into two groups: those who completed their education in a "bourgeois" school (i.e., those who completed their schooling in Albania during King Zog's time or in one of the Western countries), and those who completed their schooling in Communist schools (i.e., those who completed their education in Albania during the Hoxha regime or in one of the Communist countries). The final decision on the latter, if they are from laboring classes, is made by the Buro of the Qark. For the former, approval of the Secretariat of the Central Committee is needed, regardless of the applicant's social origin.
20. An applicant is admitted as a candidate member for not more than three years, but the average length of time is probably two years. During the period an applicant is a candidate member, he (or she) is given various tasks to perform to determine his (or her) willingness and efficiency to engage in Party work.
21. To become a full Party member, the applicant follows practically the same procedure he did when he prepared his initial application. Another biography is submitted which will include the period the applicant was a candidate member and another formal request to join the Party is addressed to the Organizata Baze. This time the applicant does not submit supporting documents. His biography for the period he was a candidate member will include a description of the duties he performed for the Party with self criticism of his work and attitudes. The applicant submits himself to the same examinations at the Organizata Baze, the Rreth Buro and the Qark Buro. Final decision as to the applicant's admissability rests with the Qark Buro which issues his Communist Party membership card. (The Party card of an acquaintance of Bimbli at the Zeri i Popullit was signed by Fiqrete Shehu, the First Secretary of the Qark Committee of Tirana).

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Disciplinary Action and Dismissal

22. A Party member may receive a verbal or written reprimand for breach of discipline. There are two types of written reprimands: a permanent reprimand which is made a part of the individual's Party record, and an indefinite reprimand which is made a part of the member's record but which can be removed if the member takes corrective action. On one occasion, at Zeri i Popullit, when one of the section heads was duty officer in charge of checking proofs, a typographical error was made which was slightly embarrassing to the staff. The section head was able to show that it was a mechanical error hence only an indefinite reprimand was placed in his file. The written reprimand was later removed.
23. The Statute of the Central Committee of 1948 which fixed recruiting procedures also defined the procedures for dismissal from the Party. The dismissal must be discussed and recommended by the Organizata Baze to which the member belongs. If the member is a laborer, the approval of the Central Committee (Secretariat) is necessary. For others, the Organizata Baze may dismiss Party members; Party members, however, have the right to appeal to the Rreth and Qark Buro and even to the Central Committee. Usually a non-laborer will appeal directly to the Central Committee instead of going through the Rreth and the Qark which usually sustain the Organizata Baze's decision.

Membership

24. The majority of the Party membership today is of bourgeois origin. Present recruiting regulations and efforts of the Party leadership to develop leaders from the laboring class (such as Rita Marko) are intended to give the Party more of a proletarian character.
25. Although women, especially the wives of the leaders (Figrete Shehu, Neximiye Hoxha, Vita Kapo) are prominent at the higher levels, there are few women in the Party ranks.
26. The most active Communist areas of Albania are Korce, Gjinokaster, Vlone and Berat in that order. There are more Party members with Orthodox religious background than Moslem or Catholic. The success of Communism in Korce is explained by the fact that the movement began in that area. The Communist organization in Korce is well organized. Any man assigned as First Secretary of the Qark Committee of Korce will make a good record during his tenure there, however, this does not necessarily mean that appointment to Korce indicates that the person is destined for higher leadership in the Party.
27. The Party has had almost no success in recruiting members from northern Albania because the people there were alienated by unnecessary massacres during the war. Party agitators from southern Albania are ineffective. Moreover, the mountainous terrain and dispersed population make effective political agitation difficult.

Leadership

28. Rita Marko, who is a member of the Central Committee Secretariat and an alternate member of the Politburo, was named as the fastest rising leader in the regime. During the war, he was a commander of a brigade. In 1950, he was First Secretary of the Communist Party Qark Committee in the Korce area and has been promoted almost every year since then. He has completed elementary schooling and has had no other formal education.

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29. The following attributes are considered necessary for a successful career in the Party: labor class origin; forceful character; a graduate of an Albanian school during the present regime or graduate of a satellite school; a successful intriguer; and able to work long hours. Fadil Pacrami, Editor-in-Chief of Zeri i Popullit, and Petro Kati, Director of Radio Tirana, both work in their offices 14-16 hours a day and Rita Marko does the same. The long hours are kept to demonstrate devotion to duty. More able people, however, could do just as much work in less time.
30. The Party has no theorist such as Mosha Pijade in Yugoslavia. Hoxha and Shehu are the best grounded in Communist theory because they have read and studied more. Liri Belishova and Bedri Spahiu sometimes write or make speeches on Communist doctrine.

Party Schools

31. The Party has several courses of study for persons with varying degrees of education. The Secretary of the Organizata Baze arranges with the Communist Party Committee of the Qark (Third Secretary's office) for a course to fit the member's educational background. Illiterate persons accepted as Party members are given a three-month course in reading and writing. The following courses which are prepared by the Marxism Section of the Agitprop Directorate are offered throughout the country:
- a. "The Class Struggle." This is the basic course taken by new Party members with little previous formal education. It teaches the class struggle in Albania, with emphasis on the World War II period.
 - b. "The Russian Revolution."
 - c. "History of the Communist Party of the USSR."
 - d. "History of the Albanian Communist Party." The content of this course is taken from speeches of regime leaders at the Party congresses outlining the development of the Party.
 - e. "Stalin-Lenin."
 - f. "The Dialectic." This course is based on the fourth part of Stalin's History of the All-Union Communist Party.
 - g. "Marx-Engels." This course is based on Engels' Feuerbach and the End of Classical Philosophy in Germany, Lenin's Materialism and Empiric-Criticism, and Lenin's Relative and Absolute Truth.
 - h. "Course on Zeri i Popullit."
32. A villager would probably reach no further than the "Stalin-Lenin" course. "The Dialectic" would be offered only in a few of the larger towns of Albania and "Marx-Engels" only in Tirana. "The Class Struggle" lasts about nine months with classes one or two hours a week. The "Course on Zeri i Popullit" lasts about two years with classes one or two hours a week and is the most advanced course in Communist theory in Albania. The instructor of this course was Stefan Pollu, Vice President of the Scientific Institute, who has studied literature and history in the Soviet Union. Students at the University are exempted from this course.

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33. When the ten or twelve formal courses have been completed, there are numerous courses of individual study that are carried out under the supervision of Party instructors who conduct periodical examinations.
34. The Communist Party School, located outside Tirana on the road to Elbasan, is generally for officials who are engaged in Party activities and who have not finished the gymnasium. There is no age qualification for attending the school. The selection of students is made by the Qark committees among Party functionaries. Those selected are usually from the poorest classes who are going to be pushed ahead in their Party career. There are no expenses at the school and students are allowed one night a week off. The studies consist mostly of basic gymnasium subjects and the faculty is composed of teachers from the university in Tirana. The curriculum consists of Communist theory and members of the Central Committee; Mrs. Hoxha and Fadil Pacrami at times lecture on the "History of the Albanian Workers' Party". The diploma received upon graduation from this school is not considered as good as a gymnasium diploma. In Communist theory, they do not reach the level of the "Course on Zeri i Popullit". Graduates of the school may or may not return to their former job, but they will not go to a lesser job. After completing the two year course, students attend individual courses in Communist theory and take periodic examinations at the Party school.

Foreign Publications

35. For a Lasting Peace; For a People's Democracy, the Cominform newspaper is available on the news stands in Tirana and each of the Qark centers in Albania. The price is five leks. The paper is considered rather deep for the masses and is bought mostly by Party members and intellectuals. Occasionally, articles on important subjects are reprinted in Zeri i Popullit.
36. Pravda and Izvestia reach Albania by boat and are very late. These newspapers and other Soviet periodicals printed in Albanian are placed in a "Soviet Library" located in each of the Qark centers. In addition to newspapers and periodicals, these libraries have scientific books, books on Russian literature and books for children. The books are in Albanian and almost all have been published in the Soviet Union. The libraries are run by the distribution enterprise that distributes Zeri i Popullit and other Party publications. The libraries are fairly successful because there is little reading material available and the few books published in Albania are very expensive. For example, Stalin's History of the All-Union Communist Party published in Albania costs about 50 leks; the French edition of the same work published in the Soviet Union can be purchased for 15 leks.

Comment:

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1. The term aktiv appears to be used here to mean "meeting".
2. The original report did not specify who the other members of the Buro might be.

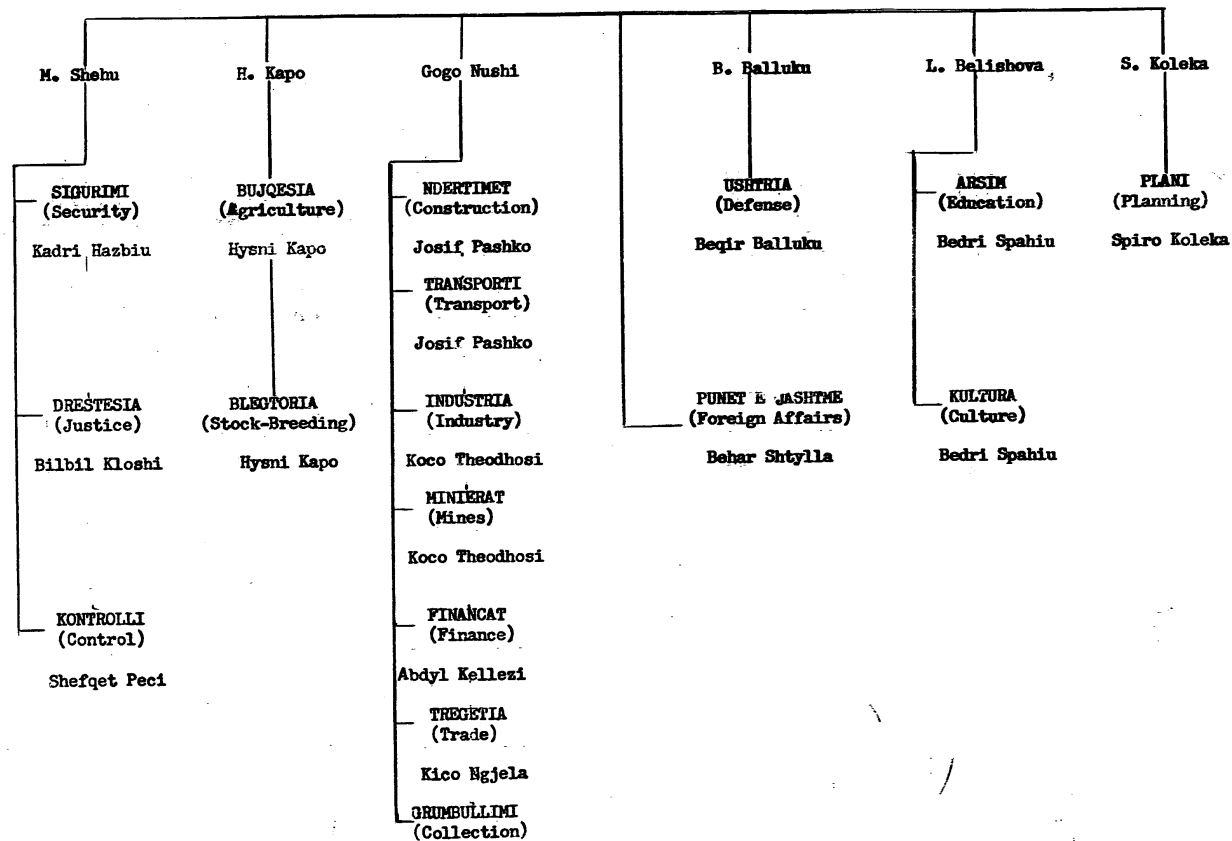
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ALBANIAN WORKERS' (COMMUNIST) PARTY

Enver Hoxha



QARK ORGANIZATION

ALBANIAN WORKERS' (COMMUNIST) PARTY

